



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2006

COUNTY CO-HOSTS PUBLIC MEETINGS ON ROOT WEEVIL NEXT WEEK ***Meetings to Provide More Information on Quarantines, Treatment for Weevil***

The San Diego County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) is partnering with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in hosting two public meetings to inform residents about local infestations of the Diaprepes root weevil.

The meetings will provide information about five quarantines in effect for Diaprepes and eradication treatments being planned in the quarantine areas.

The first public meeting will be Sept. 5, 2006, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the City of Encinitas Community Center (Oakcrest Park) located at 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive in Encinitas. The second public meeting will be Sept. 8, 2006, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carmel Valley Public Library located at 3919 Townsgate Drive in San Diego.

The Diaprepes root weevil is a significant pest to both agricultural crops and landscaping plants. Quarantines for the Diaprepes root weevil are in effect in the communities of Carlsbad, Carmel Valley, Encinitas, Fairbanks Ranch, and University City.

"The public's cooperation in detecting the infestations is greatly appreciated. Left unchecked, Diaprepes could significantly damage San Diego agriculture," said County Agricultural Commissioner Bob Atkins.

Treatment for the eradication of the weevil in the quarantine areas is planned to begin the week of Sept. 10, 2006. Current plans include treatment of host plants and trees as well as soil in the infested areas. CDFA will officially lead the eradication effort. AWM will be coordinating efforts with CDFA and observing the eradication treatments. Homeowners directly affected in the treatment areas will be notified by the CDFA.

The public can help by reporting suspicious bugs on the CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899 or 619-698-1046. For more information, visit AWM's web site, www.sdcawm.org.

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